

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not being of sufficient quality for reproduction. The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakajima '145 in view of Inoac et al. '059.

Each of these objections and rejections of record is addressed separately below.

The Objections To The Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings because they are not of sufficient quality for reproduction. The Examiner thus required that the Applicant to submit corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.1.21(d). The Applicant is submitting herewith corrected drawings that are labeled "Replacement".

It is therefore submitted that the objections to the drawings have been satisfied and overcome and should therefore be withdrawn.

The Section 112 Claim Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner indicated that the claims contain subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that it is not clear how the Applicant is using the expression "an intended seam area".

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15 to clarify that the intended seam area is a seam that is formed in the cover by a user at a predetermined location to allow the user to gain access to the object within the cover.

The Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakajima '145 in view of Inoac et al. '059. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Initially, Amended claims 1 and 15 each require an apparatus that allows a user to access an object that is encased within a form-fitting cover. The apparatus includes a mechanism that is applied over a seam that is cut into the cover by the user. The location of the seam is predetermined by the user to allow ready access to one or more desired portions of the object. The apparatus is applied to each side of the seam such that after the user has had access to the object, the form-fitting cover can be reapplied. Thus, the form-fitting cover is resuseable – unlike prior form-fitting covers, which must be discarded after use.

The Applicant's claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the Nakajima '145 reference or any other reference of record. The Nakajima '145 reference relates to the creation of a cover for a container. It involves cutting the sheets into certain sizes to match the shape and surfaces of the container to be covered. This is unlike the Applicant's claimed invention where an object already has a form-fitting cover preapplied to the object. Thereafter, the form-fitting cover is subdivided into a plurality of different predetermined segments that allows a user to have access to the object and also allows the cover to be reused. Similarly, the Inoac '059 reference merely teaches attaching two sections of material by Velcro or a hook and loop fastener. Neither of these references, either alone or in combination, teaches the Applicant's claimed invention, as discussed above.

It is therefore submitted that the Section 103(a) rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn as all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

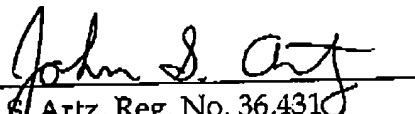
Conclusion:

It is hereby submitted that all objections and rejections of record have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner should have any questions, she is urged to contact the undersigned at (248) 223-9500.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C.


John S. Artz, Reg. No. 36,431
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500

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